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SOURCE Gazeta Ludowa, No 279, 1949.

BY-LAWS DRAFTED FOR UNITED PEASANTS' PARTY

The following are the main provisions of the draft of by-laws for the ZSL (United Peasants' Party), with central headquarters in Warsaw. This draft will be on the agenda of the approaching merger congress.

Polish citizens of both sexes, having reached the age of 18, may become members of the ZSL, if they (a) accept the ideological principles of the party, (b) earn a livelihood by their own labor or sources which exclude exploitation, and (c) serve the cause of progress and of the welfare of the state and of the peasants.

The general assembly of each ZSL chapter admits new members of the party by a simple majority vote in the presence of the applicants. The vote is confirmed by the Powiat Executive Committee or by a body of equal competence.

Applicants are required to serve a trial period of 6 months to one year from the date of application before obtaining a membership card. Applicants must submit two ZSL references.

A ZSL member who is unsatisfactory in the performance of duties may be deprived of his card and placed in the category of applicants.

The decision by a ZSL chapter to readmit an applicant previously expelled must be confirmed by the Wojewodztwo Executive Committee.

ZSL party members are required to: participate in party meetings and activities, carry out party resolutions, pay membership dues, subscribe to at least one party publication, propagandize the party policy and see that such policy is followed in the community, maintain personal dignity and enhance the prestige of the party, strive to raise the economic, cultural, and educational level of the community; protect the peasants' interests, when holding a government, communal, or other office; combat every aspect of capitalist exploitation, especially by wealthy rural elements; and fight all reactionary forces opposed to the development of a people's democracy.

- 1 -

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ZSL members have the right to: participate and vote in party meetings, elect officers and hold office (a 2-year membership period is required to hold office in the higher governing bodies of the party), criticize party and professional activities of members at party meetings and the party press, benefit from party advice and assistance, and wear party badges and insignia.

Party members who do not act in accordance with party principles, or act contrary to the interests of the peasants, will be liable to the following disciplinary penalties: loss of office, suspension of membership, and expulsion from the party.

A ZSL member sentenced to a disciplinary action by the general assembly of the chapter may appeal to the Wojewodztwo Party Commission for re-examination of his case.

ZSL members sentenced by the Wojewodztwo Party Commission may appeal to the Chief Commission of Party Control

All organs and party members have the right to institute charges.

Organization of ZSL

Organization of ZSL units is based on the territorial subdivision of the state into wojewodztvos, powiats, communes, and villages.

The basic governmental unit is the chapter.

In localities having a larger population, two or more ZSL chapters may be formed.

ZSL Congress

The ZSL congress is the chief governing body of the party. It is composed of delegates elected by the powiat assemblies of the ZSL in accordance with one-time regulations prescribed by the Supreme Council. Ordinary party congresses are held every 3 years and are convoked by the Supreme Council.

Extraordinary party congresses are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Council on resolutions of the Supreme Council or of the Supreme Executive Committee, or on the petition of half of the Wojewodztwo Executive Committees.

Congress resolutions are passed by majority of vote.

The congress may discuss and approve reports of the Supreme Council and of the Chief Auditing Commission, approve programs and statutory amendments, elect members and alternates of the Supreme Council, and elect members of the Chief Auditing Commission.

Supreme Council

The Presidium of the Supreme Council consists of a chairman, vice-chairmen, and a secretary chosen among the members of the council.

ZSL leaders may be admitted to the meetings of the Supreme Council with the right to take part in its discussions upon the invitation of the Presidium of the Supreme Council. Such an invitation may be extended on the basis of a motion passed by the Supreme Executive Committee.

- 2 -

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The Supreme Council will be summoned once a year by the Chairman of the Council: (a) on the initiative of the Presidium, (b) by a resolution of the Supreme Executive Committee of the ZSL, (c) at the request of the council's members.

The Supreme Council may remove members of the council for nonperformance of duty and replace them with alternate council members. The council may exercise the same right with regard to members of the Chief Auditing Commission:

The Supreme Council may represent ZSL congress in all matters established by the congress, determine the political line and party tactics, appoint the president of the party, appoint and remove members and alternate members of the Supreme Executive Committee, appoint members of the Chief Party Control Commission and establish the principles of its cooperation with the Supreme Executive Committee, and control the activities of the Supreme Executive Committee.

Supreme Executive Committee

The Supreme Executive Committee consists of the president of the party, 34 members, and five alternate members.

The Supreme Executive Committee elects among its members: secretaries, vice-chairmen, and members of the Presidium.

The above, together with the president of the party and the chairman of the Supreme Council, form the Presidium of the Supreme Executive Committee. The president of the party is also chairman of the Supreme Executive Committee and of the Presidium of the Supreme Executive Committee.

The plenary sessions of the Supreme Executive Committee are to be held at least once every 3 months, and of the Presidium at least twice monthly.

Resolutions of the Supreme Executive Committee and of its Presidium are passed by a majority vote. The Supreme Executive Committee directs the entire political and organizational activity of the party. In the interim period between the sessions of the Supreme Executive Committee, its functions are carried out by the Presidium.

Chief Auditing Commission

The Chief Auditing Commission is composed of five members and three alternates.

The tasks of the commission are; to audit the accounts of the party with the corresponding vouchers, draw up financial statements, audit expenditures, and supervise administrative operations.

Chief Party Control Commission

The Chief Party Control Commission is composed of 15 members and six alternate members. The Chief Party Control Commission is responsible for the ideological discipline of its members.

The commission, in cooperation with the Wojewodztwo Executive Committees, will create in each wojewodztwo, and, if necessary in each powiat, Party Control Commissions. The Wojewodztwo and Powiat Party Control Commissions will be responsible to the Chief Party Control Commission.

- 3 -

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50X1-HUM

General Secretariat

The General Secretariat is composed of secretaries and members of the secretariat who direct the executive apparatus of the party.

The General Secretariat must carry out resolutions of the higher governing bodies, coordinate the work of the higher governing bodies, prepare motions and drafts of resolutions of the higher governing bodies, and supervise executive organs of lower ranks.

Wojewodztwo Organizational Units

Wojewodztwo Organizational Units will coordinate ZSL activities in the wojewodztwo, supervise the Powiat Organizational Units, participate through their delegates in the work of public and social institutions of the wojewodztwo, and carry out tasks assigned to the Wojewodztwo Organizational Units by the higher organizational units of the party.

The governing bodies of the Wojewodztwo Organizational Unit are: the Wojewodztwo General Assembly, the Wojewodztwo Executive Committee, the Wojewodztwo Party Control Commission, and the Wojewodztwo Auditing Commission.

The Wojewodztwo General Assembly will be summoned for its annual meeting by the Wojewodztwo Executive Committee. The following participate: powiat delegates elected on the basis and in the number established by the Supreme Executive Committee, each time members of the presidiums of the Powiat Executive Committees, members of the Wojewodztwo Executive Committee, members of the Wojewodztwo Party Control Commission, and members of the Wojewodztwo Auditing Commission.

The duties of the Wojewodztwo General Assembly are: to elect members of the Wojewodztwo Executive Committee, alternate members, and members of the Wojewodztwo Auditing Commission; to establish basic activities of the ZSL in the wojewodztwo in accordance with statutes, party platform, and resolutions passed by the governing bodies of the party; and to examine and approve reports of the Wojewodztwo Executive Committee.

The Wojewodztwo Executive Committee is composed of 15 members and two alternates. Its tasks are (1) to carry out the program and the resolutions approved by the governing bodies of the ZSL, (2) to carry out the resolutions of the Secretariat General on the territory of the wojewodztwo, and (3) to supervise the activity of the lower organizational units.

Powiat and Community Organizational Units

Comparable organization is set up on the powiat and community level.

The Chapter

The basic organizational unit of the ZSL is the chapter. The minimum membership of a chapter is seven members.

Members in good standing of the SL (Peasants' Party) and of the PSL (Polish Peasants Party) will become members of the ZSL, and will be entitled to membership cards of the ZSL.

- E N D -

- 4 -

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